

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MAY 8, 2014**

**Present:** First Selectman Edward G. McAnaney, Brian Fitzgerald and Timothy Reynolds. Selectman Chafetz was absent. First Selectman McAnaney called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Also present: Patrick McMahon, Director of Economic Development.

**Approval of Minutes from April 2, 2014 Regular Meeting**

Selectman Fitzgerald made a motion to accept the minutes from the April 2, 2014 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen. Vote 4-0 in favor.

**Approval of Minutes from May 2, 2014 Special Meeting**

Selectman Fitzgerald made a motion to accept the minutes from the May 2, 2014 Special Meeting of the Board of Selectmen as printed. Vote 4-0 in favor.

**Public Comment:** Mr. Darryl Madey, 106 Marbern Drive came before the Board to discuss a noise problem when groups use the athletic fields of the Middle and Intermediate schools at Mountain Road and Hill Street. He noted that the Relay for Life event goes on for 24 hours. Mr. Madey stated that he is in favor of groups using the fields but requests that the volume be lowered. He said that the large loudspeakers are set in the direction of his home and the volume is extremely loud. He cannot be outside during these events and even with his doors and windows closed can still hear the speaker noise. He has been unsuccessful in trying to resolve the situation on his own. He requested that the Board of Selectmen take action and recommended some solutions. Mr. Madey requested prompt actions as the Relay for Life is planned for June 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Authorize application for Main Street Investment Fund Grant**

Director of Economic Development, Patrick McMahon was in attendance to discuss the request. Mr. McMahon reported that the Town of Suffield has the opportunity to apply for a grant from the Main Street Investment Fund (MSIF) through the Department of Housing. Applications are due May 30, 2014. The Town did not receive a grant award in the initial \$5 Million allocation. The MSIF is now offering another \$5 Million grant opportunity statewide.

Eligible projects are those that develop or improve town commercial centers to attract small businesses, promote commercial viability, and improve aesthetics and pedestrian access.

Currently Ffyer Place is a private road servicing both the Town's Highway Garage complex and the former Stevenson Lumberyard. The current road is partially on Town land and partially on Stevenson land. Acceptance of Ffyer Place as a Town Road would allow for the subdivision of the remaining 25 acre former Stevenson Lumberyard and promote the redevelopment of the area which would generate new tax revenue for

the community and provide new businesses and possibly residential units in the Town Center Village District.

The goal of the reconstruction project is to help encourage the development of the Stevenson property. Relocation of the town's highway garage is being explored. A feasibility study has been completed to move the garage to Town-owned land in our light industrial zone by Bradley. The EDC and the property owner's commercial real estate firm are aggressively marketing the property. The taxes on the property are current.

The project would entail construction of approximately 30' wide road to Town Road standards up to 1100 l.f. There would be a 50' right-of-way. Construction would include granite curbing, drainage structures, sidewalks, decorative lighting and benches, and landscaping.

The Town has \$40,000 set aside in the FY13-14 capital budget for Ffyer Place reconstruction that would be used as a match for this grant.

Selectman Reynolds moved that the Board of Selectmen recommends the submission of a \$500,000 grant application to the Department of Housing for the Main Street Investment Fund to the Town Meeting for approve if needed.

First Selectman McAnaney requested an amendment to Mr. Reynolds' motion as follows: The Board of Selectmen approves the submission of a \$500,000 grant application to the Department of Housing for the Main Street Investment Fund subject to a Town Meeting for approval if needed.

Mr. Reynolds accepted the change. The vote on the amendment passed 4-0 in favor.

The vote on the motion amended was 4-0 in favor.

### **Close the Public Hearing on 2012-13 Annual Report**

Selectman Fitzgerald made the motion to close the Public Hearing on 2012-13 Annual Report. Vote 4-0 in favor.

### **Reappointments to Heritage Committee**

Selectman Sullivan made the motion to reappoint the following members to the Heritage Committee through May, 2018 as their terms had previously expired: William Hansen, Raymond Wilcox, Roger Ives, Chet Kuras and Arnie Magid. Vote 4-0 in favor.

### **Selectman's Update**

#### **a. CCM Handout: FY 15 Adopted Midterm Budget Impact on Suffield**

First Selectman McAnaney pointed out that the Connecticut Conference of

Municipalities (CCM) provided us with figures on the impact to Suffield based on the FY 15 Adopted Midterm Budget. The document showed a decrease of \$461,350. After review and adjustment by the Finance Director the net impact is a decrease of \$16,613.

**b. Budget Action by Board of Finance**

First Selectman McAnaney reported that the Board of Finance accepted the detail \$150,000 cuts approved by the Board of Selectmen at their Special Meeting on May 2<sup>nd</sup> with one change. The First Selectman salary increase of \$5,000 was eliminated and the \$5,000 was moved to the Library Book account.

**c. PURA has approved Aquarion Water Company's acquisition of West Service Water System effective 3/10/14.**

First Selectman McAnaney noted that we received a letter regarding PURA's approval of Aquarion Water Company's acquisition of West Service Water System effective 3/10/14. Selectman Fitzgerald mentioned that we need to work with Aquarion to get more residents in West Suffield access to public water. Discussion followed on the need to reach out to the WPCA and WMC Consulting Services involved in the Congamond Lake Waste Water Management Study to receive an update on the results of drinking water testing. Residents were advised to contact the WPCA if they were interested in having their drinking water tested.

**d. Bridge Inspection Report results**

The Selectmen received a copy of the Summary report of recent Bridge Inspections. Inspections are done every two years on bridges with spans of over 20 feet. Six out of nine bridges were evaluated in Good condition while three were rated Fair. Those include The Remington Street over Stony Brook Bridge (which has qualified for funding under the Federal Local Bridge Program for up to 80% reimbursement), the Russell Avenue over Philo Brook and Halladay Avenue West over Philo Brook. First Selectman McAnaney has forwarded the report to the Town Engineer for his review.

**e. Prescription Discount Program Results**

The Prescription Discount card was mailed out to all Suffield residents last year and are available online or in Town buildings. After 9 months there have been 450 claims with 178 cards being used, saving residents nearly \$35,000. This program was offered by CCM at no cost to taxpayers.

**f. Bid Invitations are out for reconstruction of Spruce Street between North Grand Street and Ratley Road, Bidding closes on May 22nd**

**g. Home Energy Solutions Program Update**

In February, letters were sent to residents inviting them to take part in a Home Energy Audit. For each audit performed, the Emergency Aid Fuel Bank receives a \$25.00 donation. To date, 87 residents have called. If all 87 complete the audit, the Fuel Bank will receive \$2,175. The mailing was paid for by the Connecticut Energy Efficiency Fund at no cost to the Town.

**Selectman Reynolds made a motion to add an item to the agenda entitled Ratify the actions of the First Selectman regarding the budget. Vote 4-0 in favor.**

**Ratify the actions of the First Selectmen regarding the budget.**

First Selectman McAnaney explained that at the Special Meeting on May 2<sup>nd</sup>, there was a motion to accept the First Selectman's budget cuts of \$150,341 with one modification, that being to move the \$62,227 reduction to the Police budget to the Employee Benefits line, increasing it to \$72,227. After the meeting he noticed that the Police budget detail reflected \$56,500 for pay and benefits and \$5,727 for a gasoline adjustment. The First Selectman reduced the amount moved to the Employee Benefits line to \$56,500 and kept the decrease of \$5,727 in the Police Budget for reduced fuel costs.

Selectman Reynolds made the motion to ratify the actions of the First Selectman to move \$56,500 to the Employee Benefits line and retain the Police Budget reduction of \$5,727 for reduced fuel costs. Vote 4-0 in favor.

There being no further business, Selectman Reynolds motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 p.m. Vote 4-0 in favor.

The next Board of Selectmen Meeting will be Wednesday, May 21, 2014.

Lisa Trase  
Recording Secretary